

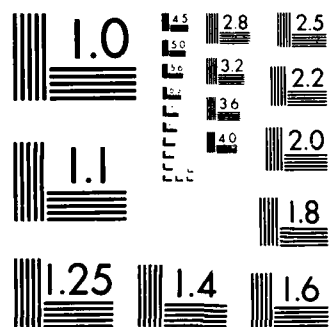
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REPORT OF TEST EXCAVATIONS AND EVALUATIONS AT FOUR
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REPORT OF TEST EXCAVATIONS AND
EVALUATIONS AT FOUR HISTORIC SITES
ON THE UPPER SOURIS RIVER,
RENVILLE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

By:

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Under a Subcontract to:

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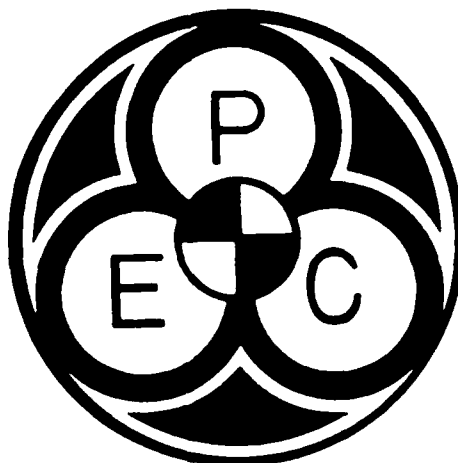
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St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers
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October 5, 1984



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PREFACE

The following report was produced by Historical Research Associates under a subcontract to Powers Elevation. It documents the test excavations and evaluations at four historic sites along the Upper Souris River in Renville County, North Dakota, performed by Powers Elevation under Contract Modification P00001 of Contract No. DACW37-82-C-0030 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District.

Site 32RV434 was recorded by Kurt Schweigert of the University of North Dakota in 1978 as the McKinney Mill Site. It is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14 and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13, T.161N., R.86W. It consists of the remains of a concrete foundation and various depressions. The site was accurately mapped by Historical Research Associates during their 1984 field visit, and six test pits were excavated. The McKinney Mill was an important local enterprise while it operated between about 1903 and 1928. However, the site remains lack integrity, and it has been fully recorded and researched. The physical remains at this site do not meet the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and no further work is recommended for this site.

Site 32RV21 was recorded as the Peninsula Site by Kurt Schweigert of Cultural Research and Management, under a subcontract to Powers Elevation, in 1982. It is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, T.162N., R.86W. The site is the remains of a farmstead, with a concrete foundation, depressions, and artifact scatter. Schweigert thought it might be related to the Mouse River Horse and Cattle Company. In 1984 Historical Research Associates accurately mapped the site, and excavated five test pits. Material culture from the site indicates that it probably post-dated the period when the Mouse River Horse and Cattle Company was active, and was most likely related to the occupation of the Tufeson family from 1903 to 1919. The site is not believed to contain information important to local history, and has been judged not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. No further work is recommended at 32RV21.

Site 32RV21 was recorded as the Depression Site by Kurt Schweigert of Cultural Research and Management, under a subcontract to Powers Elevation, in 1982. It is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, T.162N., R.86W. The site

Upper Souris River Historic Sites Report
Preface, page 2

consists of several depressions, which Schweigert thought might be related to the Mouse River Horse and Cattle Company ranch headquarters. In 1984 Historical Research Associates accurately mapped the site, and excavated seven test pits. Although the test excavations indicate that two of the depressions are probably the remains of structures, there was not enough cultural material observed to define their function or age. The site does not contain sufficient information to address regional research questions and is therefore judged to be ineligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. No further work is recommended for this site.

Site 32RV28 was recorded in 1982 by Kurt Schweigert of Cultural Research and Management, under a subcontract to Powers Elevation, and was named the Foundation Site. It is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, T.162N., R.86W. It consists of a foundation remains and depression which Schweigert believed could be related to the townsite of Barber. In 1984 Historical Research Associates accurately mapped the site, and excavated six test pits. The remains of three structures were defined, although local informants indicated that they remembered only one log building at this location, dating from the 1890s to the 1930s. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered by the testing program. The site has been fully recorded and all relevant historical sources have been checked. It is not likely to yield additional information important to local history, and therefore 32RV28 is judged to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. No further work is recommended at this site.

The results of the testing program at the four historic sites in Renville County, North Dakota, on the Upper Souris River, are that none are believed to qualify for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Each has been fully recorded, accurately mapped, and researched. No further work is recommended for these four sites.



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HISTORIC SITES EVALUATION RENVILLE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

INTRODUCTION

Under subcontract with Powers Elevation, Historical Research Associates (HRA) tested four historic sites in Renville County, North Dakota, and evaluated these sites in terms of the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Following a discussion of our research methods, a narrative description of each site (32RV21, 34RV25, 23RV28, and 23RV434) is presented. This work supplements the work previously conducted on these sites by Kurt Schweigert, as reported in the Powers Elevation report to the St. Paul District of the Corps of Engineers (Floodman et al. 1983).

METHODOLOGY

In September 1984, John Kjos, historical architect working for HRA, conducted archival research in an attempt to compile a more complete understanding of the history of the four sites. Kjos researched all of the pertinent documents, both primary and secondary, located at the Heritage Center's Historic Research Library, Bismarck, North Dakota. The information obtained by Kjos was used by HRA's staff historian during the evaluation of each of the sites.

In addition to the archival research conducted by Kjos, Greg Fox, HRA archeologist, visited the Renville County Courthouse in Mohall, North Dakota, to verify the accuracy of the ownership history for each site that was presented in the previous report (Floodman et al. 1983). Fox determined that the chain of ownership for these sites was correct. Therefore, HRA did not duplicate this information and the reader should consult the above-cited report for an account of ownership changes.

Fox and an HRA crew then proceeded to the project area and conducted extensive subsurface testing on each site. The subsurface testing was designed to determine more accurately, if possible, the dates of occupation for these sites. Fox tested each feature at all sites with at least one shovel test pit. The initial shovel test unit measured 30 x 30 cm, dug at least 10 cm deep in arbitrary levels. Both the depth and the size of the test units were expanded whenever a significant number or kind of cultural material was located. All cultural materials recovered during the shovel tests were then analyzed by Leslie A. Perry, Bismarck, North Dakota, and her results were submitted for further use by HRA staff historians and historic archeologists.

SITE NARRATIVES

The following narratives are comprised of brief identifications of cultural period, site type, elevation, site area, and topographic setting for each site, followed by detailed site descriptions, cultural material and subsurface data presentation. The sites are evaluated for significance, and recommendations regarding eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places are presented.

Site No. 32RV21

Cultural Period: Historic

Site Type: Material scatter

Elevation:

Site Area:

Topographic Setting: Peninsula meadow

Description

The site, as described by Schweigert in his 1983 report (Floodman et al. 1983), consists of a concrete and cobble foundation (F-1), two shallow depressions (F-2 and -3), a car body (F-4), and a subsurface deposit of historical material (F-5). The 1984 field work failed to relocate one of the depressions (Schweigert's F-3). Also, recent slumping of the Souris River bank has obliterated the deposit of artifacts eroding from the river cutbank (F-5) (Fig. 1).

The site is located on a low, narrow peninsula which is approximately 0.25 mile long. Vegetation at the site consists of knee- to waist-high grasses and weeds, reducing visibility to 0-5%. Numerous elm, ash, and cottonwood trees are present along the river's edge and surrounding the site to the east and west. The site is located at the east end of a large open area (meadow) on the peninsula.

Feature 1 (Fig. 2) is a large, concrete and cobble foundation consisting of two elements. The southernmost element (FE-A) is a wire-reinforced concrete foundation, measuring 3.1 m north/south by 3.05 m east/west and approximately 25 cm high by 20 cm wide. A concrete step, measuring 1.1 m north/south by 0.3 m east/west, is located 20 cm south of the common wall shared by FE-A and FE-B.

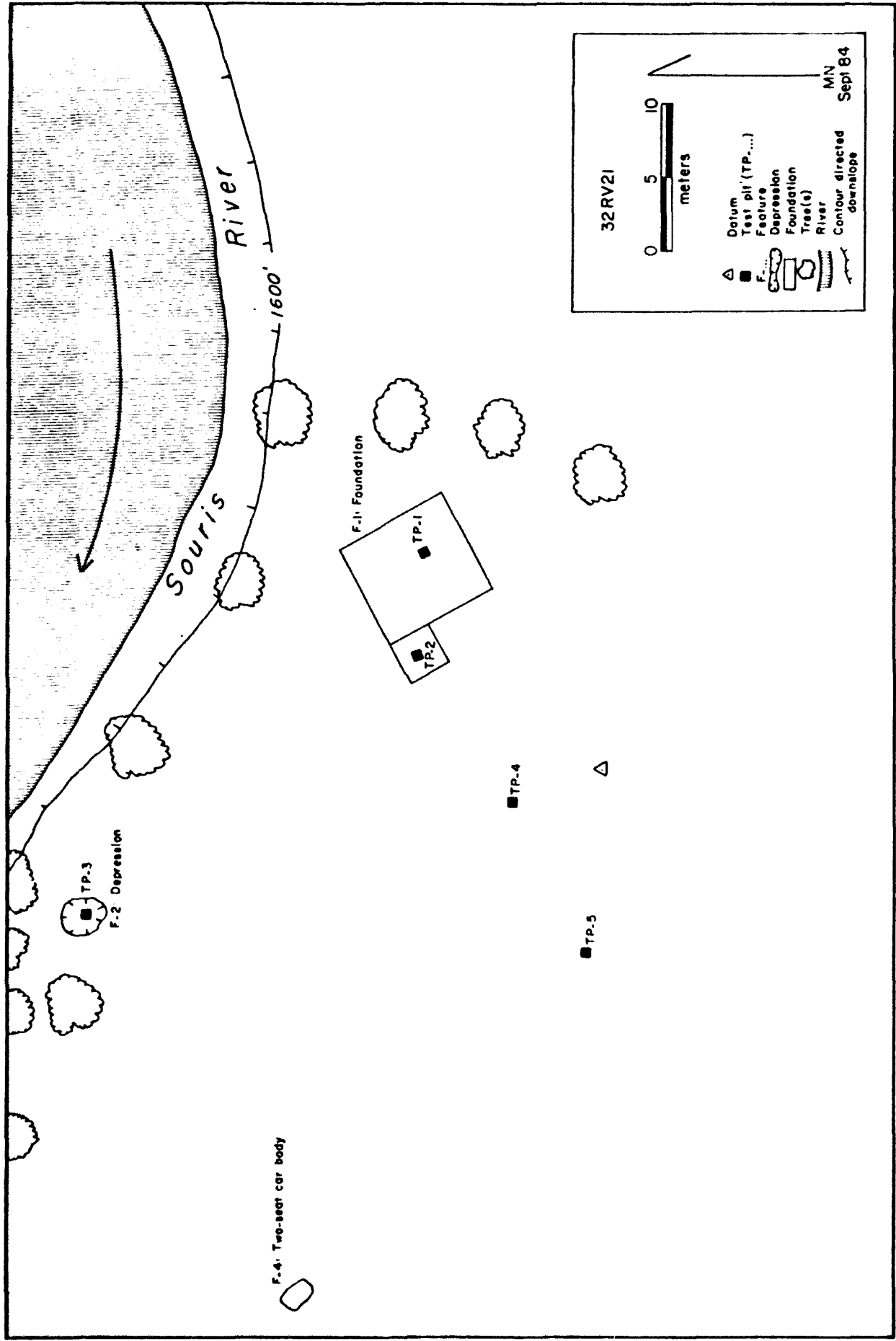


Figure 1. Map of site 32RV21.

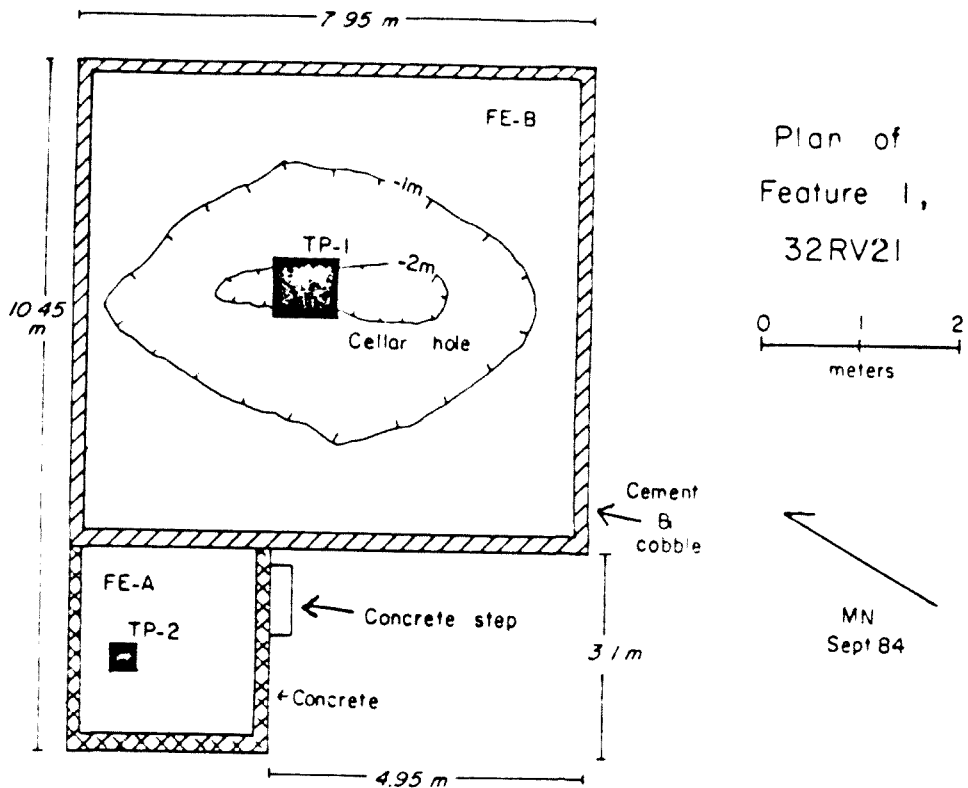


Figure 2. Plan of Feature 1, 32RV21.

FE-B appears to be the older portion of the foundation, as it is constructed from a poor grade of cement and glacial cobbles. This element is 7.35 m north/south by 7.95 m east/west. The height and width of the element is the same as FE-A. The walls of FE-B are heavily fractured. A deep, multi-level depression from 1 to 2 meters in depth is located in the center of FE-B, and is probably the remains of a cellar. A square, metal, 5-gallon can was located in the bottom of the depression.

Two test units were excavated in Feature 1. TP-1 was excavated in the deepest area of the cellar hole in FE-B. A fairly level, sterile gray clay zone was reached at approximately 35 cm below the surface of the depression. Bottles which were recovered from the base of the excavation are described below. The fill appears to be depositional in nature and partially alluvial from slope wash from the depression edge (Figs. 3 and 4). A variety of historic cultural materials were recovered from the fill including brick and mortar,

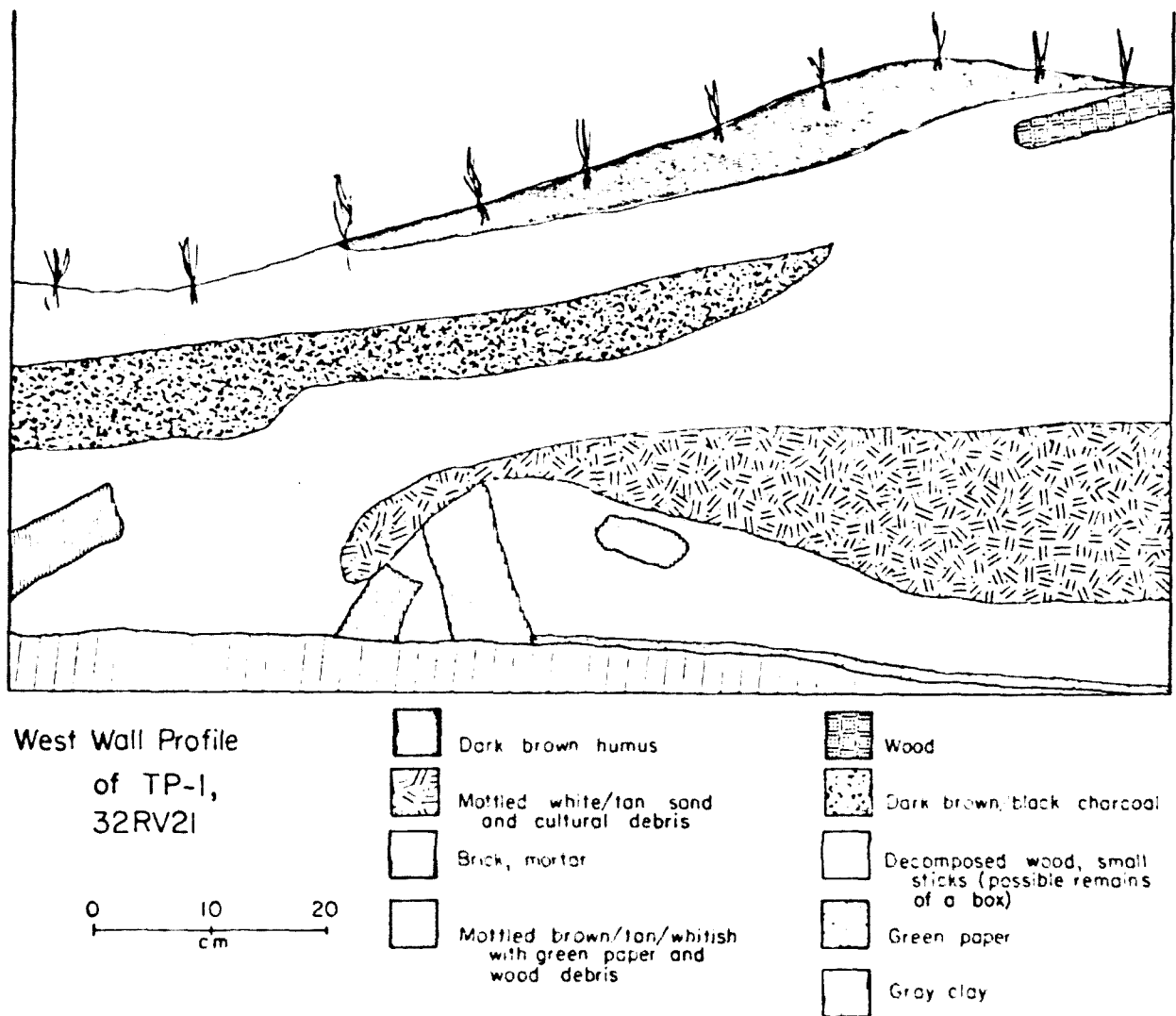


Figure 3. West wall profile of TP-1, Feature 1, 32RV21.



Figure 4. Test Pit 1 at Feature 1, 32RV21.

wood, charcoal, and paper. What appears to be the remains of a box was recovered in the northwest portion of the unit at approximately 25 cm. These remains consist of a thin layer of wood ($<1/16$ ") overlying pieces of wooden lathe.

The following analysis, performed by Leslie A. Perry of Bismarck, North Dakota, summarizes the information available from the whole and partial bottles recovered from TP-1 at Feature 1. The majority of these bottles were found on or directly above the sterile gray clay zone, which is probably the floor of the cellar. It is suggested that the deepest bottle, recovered at 42 cm b.s. on the cellar floor, and a bottle from 28 cm b.s. represent a deposition sequence which is not stratified, but mixed, and may represent remains deposited in the cellar when the house was torn down or removed.

TABLE 1

BOTTLE TYPES RECOVERED FROM TP-1 AT FEATURE 1

TYPE	1903+	1917+	1919+	TOTAL
Complete bottle		4		4
Partial and bases	5	3		8
Finishes	6		1	7
TOTAL	11	7	1	19

TABLE 2

LOCATION OF BOTTLES RECOVERED FROM TP-1 AT FEATURE 1

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
18 cm b.s.	Granite Bottling Company (Minot, North Dakota), automatic crown top finish, 1903+ (Holscher 1965:22); also base and ca. nine body fragments
18 cm b.s.	Clear base, identical to above
?? cm b.s.	Aqua base/body section, 1903 (Kendrick 1966:84); with owen's scar probably beer or pop, 8-10 oz.
?? cm b.s.	Dark green base, 1917+ (Kendrick 1966:84); no owen's scar
?? cm b.s.	Brown base (beer or pop); 1917+ (Kendrick 1966:84); no owen's scar
?? cm b.s.	Dark green base, 1917+ (Kendrick 1966:84); no owen's scar
?? cm b.s.	Aqua base/body, 1903+ (Kendrick 1966:84); with owen's scar

TABLE 3

DESCRIPTION OF WHOLE BOTTLES RECOVERED FROM TP-1 AT FEATURE 1
(Kendrick 1966:84, Holscher 1965:22)

DEPTH BELOW SURFACE	DESCRIPTION
12 cm	Grain Belt bottle; date 1917+; automatic crown top finish, owens suction scar
32 cm	Green pop bottle, ca. 10-12 oz.; date 1917+; automatic crown top finish, owen's suction scar; cork maybe a secondary use closure
38 cm	Clear beer or pop bottle, ca. 10-12 oz.; date 1917+
30 cm	Clear quart beer bottle; date 1917+

TABLE 4

BOTTLE FINISHES

DEPTH BELOW SURFACE	DESCRIPTION
42 cm	Aqua automatic crown top finish with cork (probably secondary closure); 1903+
20 cm	Aqua automatic crown top finish (4 fragments); 1903+
28 cm	Dark aqua automatic crown top finish; 1903+
26 cm	Dark green automatic crown top finish; 1903+
30 cm	Dark green automatic crown top finish; 1903+
33 cm	Brown automatic crown top finish; 1903+
40 cm	Clear continuous thread screw finish; 1919+ (Lief 1965)

TP-2 is a 40 x 40 x 50 cm deep test unit located in FE-A at Feature 1 (see Fig. 2). This test produced one buckle, one piece of charcoal, and one fragment of mortar in the top 30 cm of the excavation. A round wire ten-penny nail was recovered from 30-50 cm. This unit was not expanded due to the number of cultural materials being recovered from TP-1 in the same feature.

Feature 2 is a small, shallow depression, measuring 2.2 m north/south by 1.85 m east/west and 0.2 m deep at the center. The long axis of the feature is oriented north/south. This feature was tested with a 40 x 40 x 30 cm deep test unit. No cultural materials were recovered. Soils in the unit were uniformly a dark brown silty loam.

Feature 4 is a two-seat car body, and was photographed only.

Two additional 30 cm by 30 cm by 40 cm shovel tests (TP-4 and TP-5) were excavated to the southwest of Feature 1 (see Fig. 1). Soils in both tests were uniformly a dark brown to black, highly organic soil to a depth of 12 cm b.s. Underlying this soil is a gray-brown, sandy/silty loam. TP-5 exhibited an organically rich zone between 10-15 cm b.s., with the appearance of decomposing dung. TP-4 had one small (<1 cm on an axis) fragment of milk glass and a deer-sized ungulate rib. TP-5 had one small (<1 cm on an axis) fragment of clear glass. No intact cultural levels were observed in the test unit soil profiles.

Evaluation

Based on subsurface testing, portions of this site, particularly the cellar area of Feature 1, have integrity and manifest intact subsurface deposits of cultural materials. However, the deposition of these materials appears to be related to trash dumping from 1903 to

1919 and may relate to the abandonment of unwanted materials when the site was vacated. Based on the construction techniques observed, FE-A, constructed from wire-reinforced concrete, appears to post-date the cobble and cement foundation in FE-B. Cultural materials are more lightly distributed in FE-B and represent a diverse assemblage of historic materials. Dating of bottles recovered from TP-1 indicates that the site may have been occupied as early as 1903 and as late as 1919.

A title search for this property indicates that the site was part of the homestead patented by Clyde W. Joslin (Joslyn) in 1894. Joslyn sold to Nels Tufveson in 1896, and the property remained in the Tufveson family until it was sold to the USA by Ida Selma (Tufveson) Forsberg and E.J. Forsberg in 1937, presumably under the Bankhead Jones Act. Site 32RV21 is most likely associated with agricultural activity from an era post-dating the active period of the Mouse River Horse and Cattle Company, between the years 1885 and 1900.*

Recommendation

Although this site exhibits integrity of subsurface deposits in Feature 1 and contains temporally diagnostic materials, the site is not considered to contain sufficient information to add to the body of knowledge or to test defensible hypotheses and theories of homestead era or earlier cattle industry periods in the area. The site is recommended as ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There should be no further work completed on the site.

*Although Joslin was involved as a partner in the Mouse River Cattle Company, there is confusion over the names of his partners. Schweigert states that Robert McKinney and Otis Young were co-owners. However, the Renville County History, prepared by the Renville County Old Settlers Association, indicates that Joslin's partners were "Otis McKinney and Young" (p. 11). Also, Mary Ann Williams, in her book Origins of North Dakota Place Names, indicates that Otis McKinney was one of the original settlers in the area (p. 13).

Site No. 32RV25

Cultural Period: Historic

Site Type: Foundation depressions

Elevation: 489 m

Site Area: approximately 600 m²

Topographic Setting: Flood plain

Description

This site consists of three deep depressions located along the east bank of the Souris River flood plain in a heavily wooded area (Fig. 5). The entire area is heavily overgrown, and tall sedges, nettles, buck brush, elm, ash, and cottonwood predominate in a flood plain biotic community. Disturbance at the site is minimal and a deep humic layer comprises the surface stratum. Surface cultural materials at the site are sparse and consist of one broken patent medicine bottle and a limestone slab. The broken bottle has the logo, "Dr. Peter's Kwikcure, Chicago, Illinois, Patent Applied For," embossed on the side. This bottle is a clear, rectangular bottle with an improved lipping tool lip. The finish has a flattened extract lip which dates from the period 1870-1915 (Davis 1949:154-155; Deiss 1981).

Features

The three features at the site were originally recorded by Schweigert (1983), as was a well-defined, rutted, two-track road. Only the depressions and surrounding open areas were tested during the 1984 field visit.

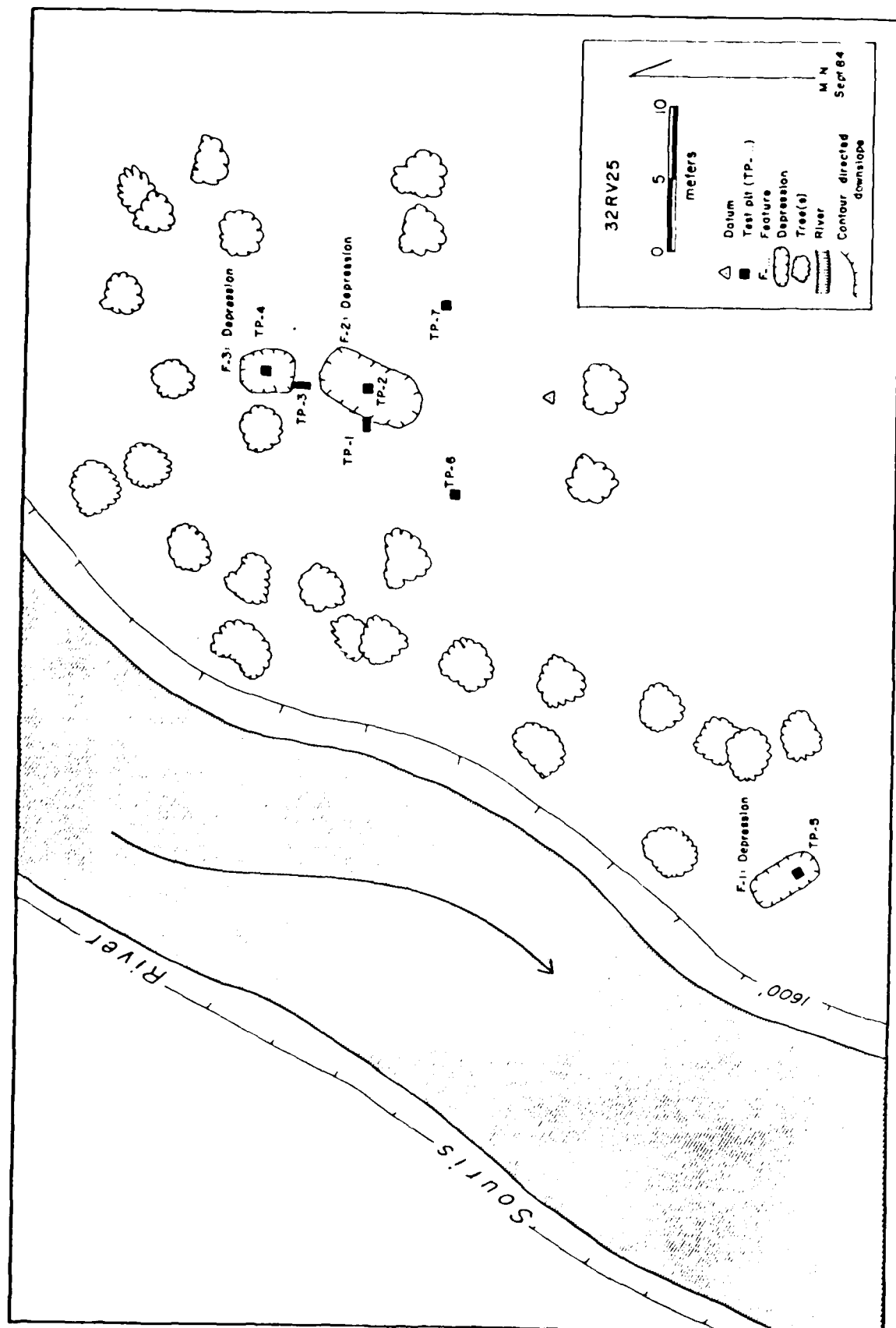


Figure 5. Map of site 32RV25.

Feature 1 is a long, narrow, linear depression oriented at right angles to the present Souris River channel. The depression's long axis is oriented 30° west of north, is 4.7 m north/south by 2.2 m east/west, and is approximately 1.2 m deep at the inland end. The feature opens at the river side onto the stepped, eroding bank of the Souris River. The step of the river bank is 1.2 m high. On the lower end, the feature may extend an additional 3.9 m north/south length based on the vegetation, although this is only marginally visible. This feature is filled with trees and brush.

One 30 x 30 x 80 cm test unit (TP-5) was placed in the bottom of the depression toward the inland end of the depression. Two unidentified large mammal bone fragments were recovered from the test unit between 30 and 40 cm b.s. No other cultural materials were found. Soil profiles in the unit revealed the presence of 30 cm of recent humus overlying a 20 cm thick zone of black silty loam with a high organic content. At 50 cm b.s., a compact black-gray silty loam appears and continues to 80 cm b.s. The soil interface at 50 cm b.s. is considered to represent the floor of the feature.

Feature 2 is a linear depression oriented 28° east of north and located approximately 40 m northeast of Feature 1. The dimensions of the feature are 5.6 m north/south by 4.0 m east/west, with a center depth of 1.1 m. One limestone slab is visible on the west side of the depression. The feature is partially filled with decaying leaves and with buck brush growing along the edges.

Two test units were excavated at this feature. TP-1 is a 1.5 m by 50 cm unit excavated to a depth of 30 cm b.s. In Level 1 (0-10 cm), a metal cup handle, burnt bone, limestone mortar, 10 small wood fragments, and numerous small fragments of charcoal were recovered.

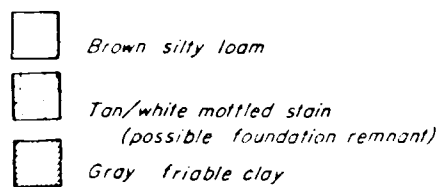
Level 2 contained charcoal and a 20 cm wide band of a tan-white, mottled ash/mortar residue which parallels the western edge of the feature (Figs. 6 and 7). This stain, which is interpreted as a foundation remnant, disappears at 18 cm b.s. in an area of a gray, friable clay.

A second, 30 x 60 x 60 cm test unit (TP-2) was placed in the center of Feature 2. An articulated cow skeleton and 15 fragments of sheet metal were recovered from between 20 and 50 cm b.s. It is suggested that the articulated cow skeleton represents post-occupational disposal of a diseased, dead animal at a convenient dumping site.

Feature 3 is a rectilinear depression 1.5 m north of Feature 2. The dimensions of the depression are 3.3 m north/south by 3.0 m east/west and the feature is 1.0 m deep. A small ash tree is growing at the north center of the depression. The orientation of the feature is north/south. No cultural materials were observed on the surface and the depression bottom is filled with decaying leaves.

A 1.5 m x 40 cm test trench (TP-3), excavated to a depth of 40 cm b.s., was placed along the southern edge of the feature. This excavation recovered 10 small fragments of unidentifiable bone and 1 fragment of sheet metal. Soils are consistent with alluvial river bottoms/flood plains and were overlain by 5 cm of thick humus. A second, 30 x 30 x 80 cm deep test unit (TP-4) was placed in the center of the depression. One round wire nail and two WRA ("Winchester Repeating Arms") New Club No. 12 shot shell bases were recovered from 20-30 cm b.s. Between 30-40 cm b.s., an articulated cow skeleton was encountered. Between 40-50 cm b.s., a sandy, dry soil lens appeared in the profile (Fig. 8), which curves toward the center of the depression. Underlying this soil lens at 50-60 cm and dipping toward the center of the depression was a quantity of decomposed, charred lumber. It is suggested that this represents collapsed flooring or a collapsed structure.

32RV25, Feature 2

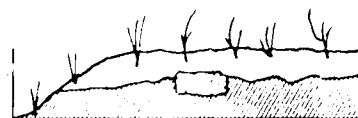


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F E A T U R E 2

TP-2



(A)

Plan of 10cm level, TP-1

(b)

Limestone foundation fragment

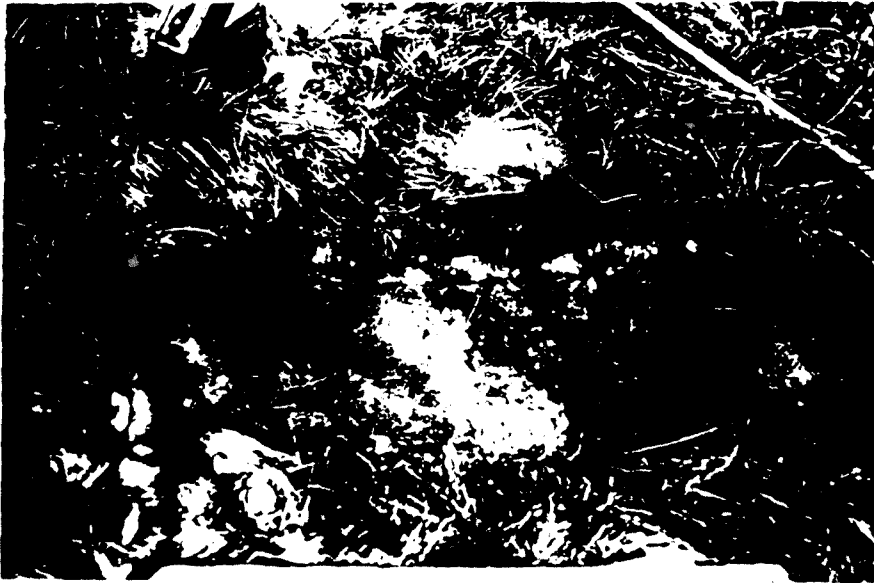


Figure 7. Test Pit 2, Feature 1, 32RV25

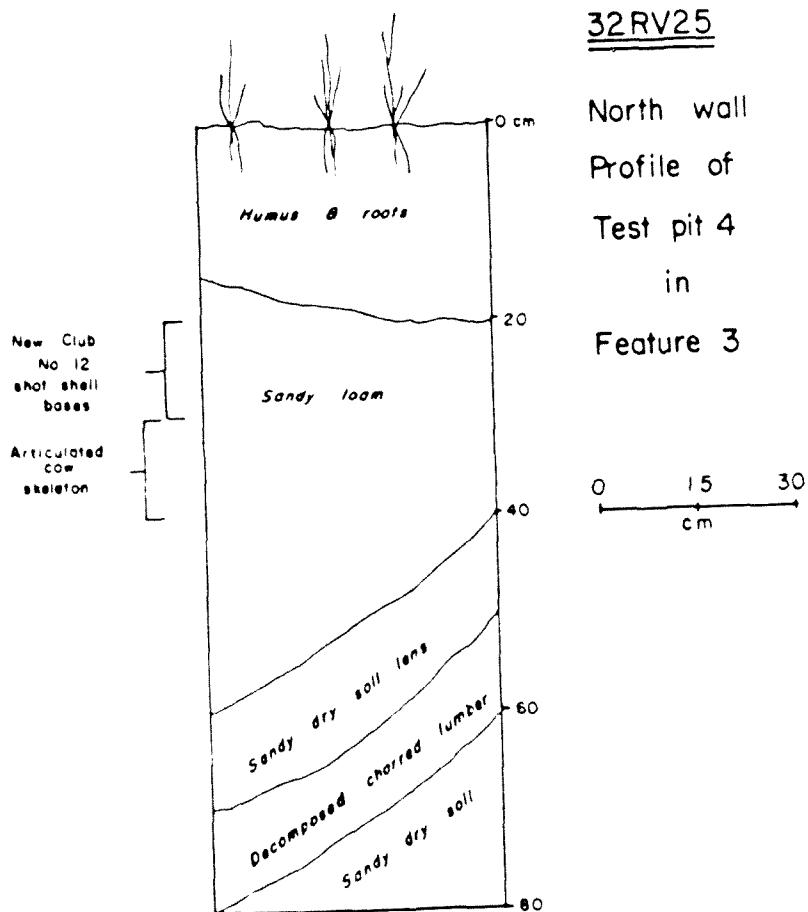


Figure 8. North wall profile of Test Pit 4, Feature 3

Two additional 30 x 30 x 40 cm test pits (TP-6 and 7) were excavated in the open area to the south of Features 2 and 3 to determine if activities were occurring away from the buildings. Both of these tests were negative.

Evaluation

Test excavations within the three depressions indicate that at least two of the features (F-2 and F-3) are the remains of structures. This statement is based, in part, on the presence of a foundation line on the west side of Feature 2 and on decomposing wood which follows the base of Feature 3. Post-occupational dumping is suggested by articulated cow skeletons and by the WRA New Club shot shell above the base of the feature. The site is not considered to contain sufficient information to approach either local or regional history problems.

Recommendation

This site does not contain sufficient cultural materials to contribute significant information regarding regional settlement. Therefore, the site does not meet the eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. We recommend no further work on the site.

Site No. 32RV28

Cultural Period: Historic

Site Type: Homestead/farmstead

Elevation: 489 m

Site Area: approximately 875 m²

Topographic Setting: Hay field on river bank

Description

This site is the surface remains of a homestead occupied from the 1890s until the mid-1930s. It is situated in a level hay field on the east bank of the Souris River, approximately 100 m north of an east/west gravel county road. Areas of the site appear to have been plowed in the recent past. Vegetation is a dense prairie hay, with visibility reduced to 5%. Soils are a dark brown silty loam.

Schweigert (Floodman et al. 1983) recorded two features at the site. Surface inspection in 1984 was conducted after the site had been mowed, and revealed the presence of two additional features (Fig. 9). No cultural debris was located on the surface of the site. One piece of farm machinery was present, but it was not overgrown with grasses or brush and was probably discarded by the present landowners.

Feature 1 is a depression measuring 4.1 m north/south by 4.17 m east/west and approximately 60 cm deep. This is apparently the remains of a domestic unit. One 30 x 30 x 30 cm deep shovel test (TP-5) was excavated in the base of the feature. Bone (bos and ares), strap metal, clear glass, coal, shale limestone, wood fragments, limestone, iron wagon hardware and a metal buckle were recovered from the excavation unit. The floor of Feature 1 was identified at 40 cm below the surface of the depression. No intact cultural levels were noted in the unit profile, nor were any of the recovered artifacts temporally diagnostic.

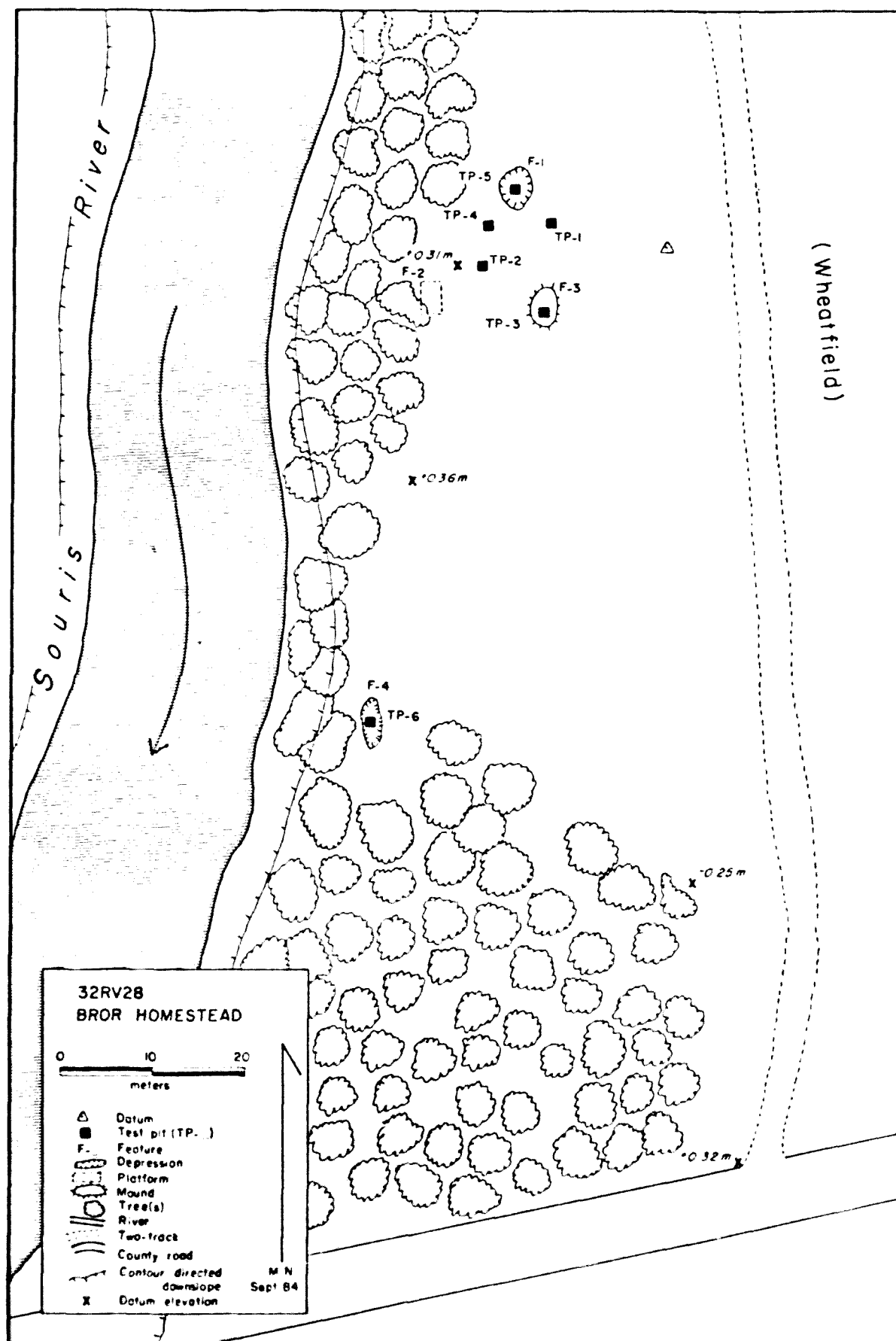


Figure 9. Map of site 32RV28.

Three additional shovel test units (TP-1, 2 and 4) were located to the south of Feature 1. Test pit 1, located southeast of Feature 1, was excavated to a depth of 25 cm below surface. The excavated soil profile indicates a 15.0 cm thick humic zone overlying gray-brown silty loam. No cultural materials were recovered from this unit. Test pits 2 and 4 were located southwest of Feature 1 in an area of surface disturbance. TP-2 was excavated to a depth of 40 cm b.s. and produced no cultural material. TP-4 was located in a slightly depressed area. This unit was expanded to 40 cm by 90 cm to expose a sheet of metal at 23 cm b.s. A fragment of what appears to be anthracite coal and one wood fragment also were recovered at this depth. In the west wall of the unit, decaying wood was noted between 12 and 15 b.s.

Feature 2, described by Schweigert (Floodman et al. 1983) as a rock alignment foundation, measures 2.0 m east/west and averages 10 cm in width. A probe on the south side of the alignment hit rock. Subsequently, the humic zone was stripped away in a 1.5 m by 75 cm area to expose a dry-laid granite and limestone floor (Fig. 10). Further subsurface probing indicated that this feature measures approximately 3.5 m north/south by 2.0 m east/west. It appears to be the remains of a rock floor or possibly a porch. One cut rib bone was recovered from the humic zone.

Feature 3 is a low mound, extremely difficult to see. It is approximately 15 cm high, and measures 4 m north/south by 2.6 m east/west. A shovel test unit (TP-3), excavated in the center of this feature, indicates that it is decomposing pile of sodded-over wood. An 11 cm thick band of decomposing wood was identified in the soil profile between 11 cm and 23 cm b.s. Fired earth and one fragment of clear glass were also recovered from TP-3.



Figure 10. Feature 2 at 32RV28.

Feature 4 is a large oval depression located on the edge of the trees approximately 50 m south of Feature 2. The feature measures 5.5 m north/south by 3.6 m east/west and is 90 cm deep. TP-6 was excavated to a depth of 40 cm b.s. in the center of this feature. One fragment of limestone mortar was recovered in the top 10 cm of humus. No intact subsurface cultural deposits were observed on the soil profile of TP-6.

Evaluation

Although this site contains some intact subsurface deposits, portions of the site have been impacted by cultivation. Cultural materials at the site are not dense and appear to represent deposition of the occupation period. Also, the lack of temporally diagnostic materials precludes assigning a century designation.

Informants (Swenson 1984) remember only one structure being present at the site and suggest an 1890 occupation. This structure was abandoned in the mid-1930s. Informants identified the single building present at the site as a log structure, and indeed milled lumber is not present. They did not recall any additional structures at the site, although both Features 1 and 2 appear to represent structural remains.

The site has been recorded and tested and all available documentary evidence has been obtained. Further field work would not reveal any additional significant information. The site does not meet the eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Recommendation:

We recommend no further work on the site.

Site No. 32RV434, McKinney Roller MillCultural Period: HistoricSite Type: Mill remnantsElevation: 488-494 mSite Area: approximately 3,200 m²Topographic Setting: Terrace and flood plainDescription

This site lies on the first terrace above the Souris River flood plain and on the flood plain itself. Vegetation consists of short prairie grasses, cottonwood, elm, and box elder. Cultural manifestations consist of one stone foundation feature (F-1) on the bank of the Souris River and six depressions (Fig. 11). Three of the depressions (F-2, -3, -7) are located to the west of the stone foundation, below the crest of a hill and adjacent to an old road cutbank. The remaining three depressions, which are much larger, are found west of Feature 1, on the south (F-4, -5) and north (F-6) sides of a large, northwesterly trending coulee. One Watkins (patent medicine) bottle (ca. 1903) was collected. A wooden window casing, measuring 67 cm wide by 90 cm high, was observed, and recent cans, wire, milled lumber, steel cable, tires, and window glass was observed on the surface. Disturbances at the site are confined to the recent erection of a steel grain bin directly west of Feature 1.

Features

Feature 1 is the remains of the McKinney Roller Mill, located on the west bank of the Souris River. The overall foundation measures 29.5 m northwest/southeast by 14.5 m northeast/southwest. Three distinct room elements to the foundation are visible, and are described as Feature Element (FE) A, B, and C. Due to the collapse

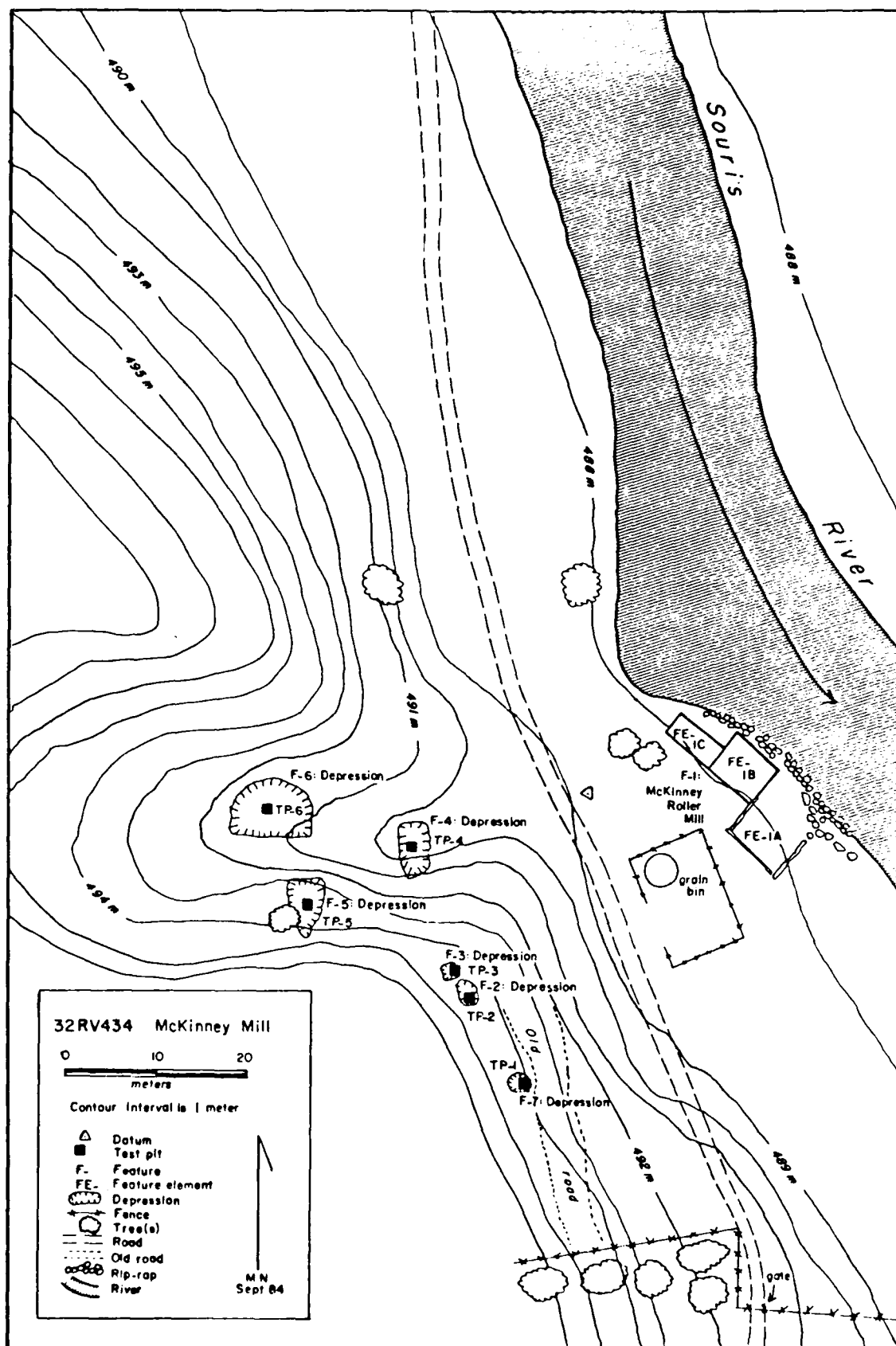


Figure 11. Map of site 32RV34.

of the cobble and boulder foundation that comprises Feature 1, it was impossible to test this feature without using a block and tackle or backhoe to remove the rubble that fills the foundation.

FE-A is on the southern end of Feature 1 and measures 7.5 x 11.6 m. This element is filled with recent and possibly earlier historic debris, including steel cable, fence wire, barbed wire, beer cans, aerosol cans, tractor tires, and scrap metal. The foundation is constructed of both undressed and partially dressed granite field stones which are mortared, with gaps filled with granite fragments. At the base of the feature in the center is a small concrete foundation (pit) with 30.0 cm thick walls. This pit measures 2.5 m north/south x 1.0 m east/west. Numerous pebble-sized glacial rocks found inside FE-A are probably field dump. This feature element appears to be riprapped along the river side.

FE-A and -B share a common, 8.3 m east/west wall. It is 58.0 cm wide and offset to the east from the west wall of FE-1A by 6.2 m. The northwest/southeast wall of FE-B measures 9 m. This portion of the foundation is riprapped to the edge of the water with glacial boulders. Numerous brick fragments are present in this area, as is one cinderblock fragment. Bricks are of three varieties: (1) plain; (2) bricks with the logo "St. Louis, V & F. BOO FURNACE;" and (3) bricks with the logo "C.R. & F. BOO AJAX." Two metal angle, iron uprights (12 cm wide) with a 3 cm hole bored near the top are located along the western foundation wall. In the base of the feature are two concrete slabs with 1-in. metal-threaded bolts embedded in them. These are located between the metal uprights approximately 3 m to the east. The westernmost slab measures 91 cm east/west x 2.05 m north/south. The second slab is located 1.05 m east, and measures 1.09 m north/south x 0.38 m east/west.

FE-C is of the same construction as FE-A and FE-B. Its west and south walls are shared with FE-A. FE-C measures 3.9 m x 9.9 m. This is a long, narrow room, and surface debris consists of bricks (of the types previously mentioned), galvanized tin, and milled lumber fragments. One block of collapsed wall exhibits concrete plaster.

Feature 2 is a small, oval, shallow depression excavated into the west cutbank of the old road. The area is heavily vegetated with grasses and buck brush. The dimensions of the feature are 5.0 m x 3.6 m and it is approximately 1.0 m deep from the top of the cutbank. Feature 2 was tested with a 30 x 30 x 30 cm deep test excavation (TP-2), and no cultural materials were recovered.

Feature 3 is a small depression located 40 cm north of Feature 2, also excavated into the cutbank of the road. Feature 3 measures approximately 1.0 m deep from the top of the cutbank and has dimensions of 2.3 m x 2.2 m. A 30 x 30 x 30 cm deep test unit (TP-3) excavated in this feature yielded no cultural materials.

Feature 4 is a long, rectangular, depression located on the south bank of a northwest-trending coulee. The feature measures 9.5 m north/south x 5.4 m east/west. It is 1.5 m deep from the upslope edge. TP-4, excavated in the center of this depression to a depth of 25 cm below surface, yielded no cultural materials.

Feature 5 is a rectangular depression located on the south bank of the coulee, 8.0 m west of Feature 4. Feature 5 measures 10.5 m x 5.6 m and is approximately 2.0 m deep from the upslope edge. This feature was initially tested with a 30 x 30 cm shovel test pit (TP-5), which was expanded to 50 x 50 cm when cultural materials were located (Fig. 12). A wide variety of cultural materials were recovered, including sheet metal fragments ($\underline{n}=125$), wire ($\underline{n}=1$), 1/8-in. metal band ($\underline{n}=3$), bottle glass ($\underline{n}=30$), ceramics (white ironstone, $\underline{n}=6$;

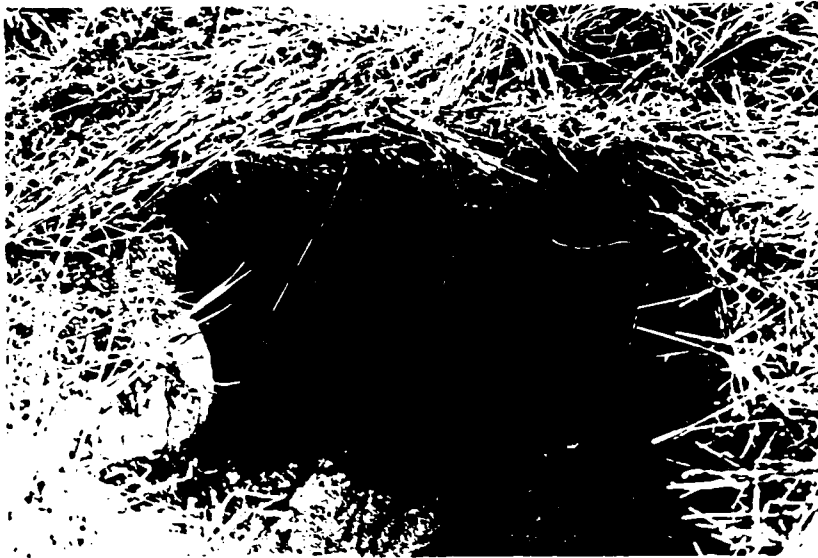


Figure 12. Feature 5 at 32RV434.

floral pattern ironstone, $n=2$, gold-patterned ironstone, $n=2$), rubber shoe parts ($n=8$), a canid mandible, *Bos* bone fragments ($n=8$), and unidentified bone fragments ($n=18$). Cultural materials were found throughout the upper 16 cm of the unit. A concentration of cultural material was found at the interface between dark brown humic soils and a light brown/tan clay substrata, 16 cm below surface.

Feature 6 is a roughly rectangular depression on the north bank of the coulee containing Features 4 and 5. Feature 6 is 8.8 m north of Feature 5 and measures 12.0 m x 14.0 m. It is approximately 2.5 m deep from the upslope edge. A small number of items were recovered from the test unit in Feature 6 (TP-6), which was excavated to a depth of 28 cm below surface. A metal bucket, a round nail, sheet metal fragments, two bone fragments, and one charcoal fragment were recovered from the upper soil levels. However, no intact cultural level was noted.

Feature 7 is a rectangular depression excavated into the cutbank of the west side of the old road, 14.5 m south of Feature 2. The feature measures 3.0 m x 4.0 m and is approximately 2.0 m deep from the top of the cutbank. Modern barbed wire was located in the bottom of the feature. Excavation of a 30 x 30 x 30 cm deep test unit (TP-1) yielded no cultural materials.

Evaluation

Only one feature at this site (F-5) has intact deposits of sub-surface cultural material. This depression could be the remains of a dugout structure or trash pit but, given the number and type of materials, a generalized domestic dump can be inferred. Artifacts recovered are not temporally diagnostic and appear to fit within the time frame of the McKinney Mill. No research questions are postulated due to the paucity and limited variety of temporally diagnostic artifacts.

The McKinney Flour Mill (Mouse River Roller Mill) was an important business enterprise for the early settlers in the McKinney area. However, the financial viability of the mill was short-lived and, by the late 1920s, the mill was closed.

The McKinney Mill site has been fully recorded and all available historic records have been researched. The site lacks integrity and does not meet the eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Recommendation

We recommend no further work at the site.

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